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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/711,487

09/21/2004

Khamir Girish Joshi

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09/07/2005

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EXAMINER

SINGH, SUNIL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3673

DATE MAILED: 09/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/711,487

Applicant(s)

JOSHI ET AL

Examiner

Sunil Singh

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 September 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/27/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION***Drawings***

1. Figures 2A, 2B should be designated by a legend such as –Prior Art– because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled “Replacement Sheet” in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1,2,4,6,7,35,36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Harrison (US 4909670).

Harrison discloses a subsea pipeline (10) comprising a first pipeline (see member 10 @ left side of Fig. 4), intermediate buoyant pipeline section (see member 10 @ 20 of Fig.

4) and a second pipeline (see member 10 @ right side of Fig. 4).

4. Claims 1,3,4,5,6,7,8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Moses et al. (US 5615977).

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Moses discloses a subsea pipeline (30) comprising a first pipeline (where member 28 is pointing in Fig. 4 left side), intermediate buoyant pipeline section (see where member 42 is pointing in Fig. 2, see Figs. 3-6) and a second pipeline (see member 26 is pointing in Fig. 2).

5. Claims 1-48 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by

"Submerged Floating Pipeline in Deep Water" article.

"Submerged Floating Pipeline in Deep Water" article discloses unlevel seabed (see Fig. 2) having pipeline traversing said seabed. The pipeline includes a buoyant region (see page 113).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

"Offshore Technology Challenges- The Sigsbee Escarpment" article in view of

"Submerged Floating Pipeline in Deep Water" article.

"Offshore Technology Challenges- The Sigsbee Escarpment" article discloses pipeline traverse an escarpment on the seabed (see Fig. 1). However, the "Offshore Technology Challenges- The Sigsbee Escarpment" article is silent about a buoyant pipeline region. "Submerged Floating Pipeline in Deep Water" article teaches a pipeline

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includes a buoyant region (see page 113). It would have been considered obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify "Offshore Technology Challenges- The Sigsbee Escarpment" article to include a buoyant pipeline region as taught by "Submerged Floating Pipeline in Deep Water" article in order to control pipeline deformation.

8. Claims 9-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moses et al. in view of Harrison

Moses et al. disclose the invention substantially as claimed. However, Moses et al. is silent about including anchor means and positioning of his pipeline on unlevel seabed. Harrison teaches positioning of pipeline on unlevel seabed (see Figures) and anchor means (18). It would have been considered obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Moses et al. by using his pipeline on unlevel seabed and include anchor means as taught by Harrison in order to traverse the topography of typical seabed without causing pipeline deformation.

Conclusion

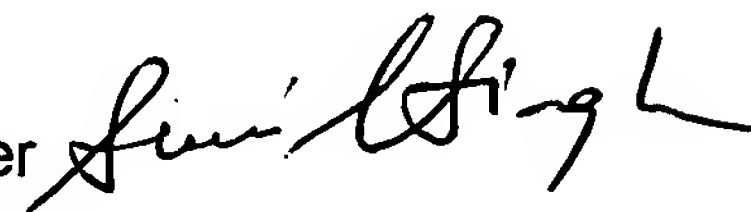
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sunil Singh whose telephone number is (571) 272-7051. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 10:30 AM - 7:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Shackelford can be reached on (571) 272-7049. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Sunil Singh
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3673



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9/2/05